This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for determining the presence or absence of ~~the~~a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or ~~encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in a sample, comprising:

(a) contacting a sample comprising ~~epithelial airway cells or cancer~~ cells selected from the group consisting of pancreas, liver, colon, ~~stomach,~~ thyroid, kidney, or bladder cancer cells~~, the method comprising:~~ with a probe that binds to said nucleic acid molecule, or a forward primer and reverse primer that binds to said nucleic acid molecule and amplifying the nucleic acid molecule; and

(~~a~~b) ~~determining the~~detecting an amount of said nucleic acid molecule in said sample, wherein a change in ~~enhanced~~ expression of the nucleic acid molecule as compared to normal cells of the same tissue type is indicative of cancer ~~or inflammation~~.

20-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A method for ~~determining the presence of or predisposition to a disease~~ detecting ~~inflammation or~~ cancer ~~associated with altered levels of a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:~~ 6 in a first mammalian subject, the method comprising:

(a) ~~measuring~~determining the amount of ~~the~~a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 in a sample from the first mammalian subject, wherein

cells are selected from the group consisting of pancreas, liver, colon, thyroid, kidney, or bladder cells; and

(b) comparing the amount of said nucleic acid in the sample of step (a) to the amount of the nucleic acid present in a control sample from a second mammalian subject known not to have ~~or not be predisposed to the~~ inflammation ~~or~~ cancer; wherein an alteration in the level of the nucleic acid in the first subject as compared to the control sample indicates the presence of ~~or predisposition to~~ the inflammation ~~or~~ cancer.

39-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein detecting ~~determining~~ the amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the sample with a probe that binds to the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the probe has at least 20 nucleotides.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the probe has a Tm of at least 65°C or greater for a target nucleic acid.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein detecting the amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the ~~samples~~sample with a forward primer, a reverse primer, and utilizing PCR.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the forward primer and reverse primer each comprise at least 20 nucleotides and each have a Tm to a target nucleic acid of about 58°C to 60°C.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the forward primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, and the reverse primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45, ~~further comprising~~ wherein detecting an amount of said nucleic acid molecule in said sample comprises detecting an amplification product with a probe, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

49.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein determining the amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the sample with a probe that binds to the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the probe has at least 20 nucleotides.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the probe has a Tm of at least 65°C or greater for binding to a target nucleic acid.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein ~~detecting~~determining the amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the ~~samples~~sample with a forward primer, a reverse primer, and utilizing PCR.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the forward primer and reverse primer each comprise at least 20 nucleotides and each have a Tm to a target nucleic acid of about 58°C to 60°C.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the forward primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, and the reverse primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising detecting an amplification product with a probe, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

58.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently amended) A method for determining the presence of cancer in a subject comprising:

~~measuring~~determining ~~the~~a level of expression of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 in a tissue sample from the subject, wherein the tissue sample comprises pancreas, liver, colon, thyroid, kidney, or bladder cells; and

comparing the level of expression of the nucleic acid in the tissue sample from the subject to a level of expression of the nucleic acid in a control tissue sample,

wherein an ~~elevated~~altered level of expression of the nucleic acid in the tissue sample from the subject indicates the presence of cancer~~;~~

wherein the cancer is of the pancreas, liver, colon, stomach, thyroid, kidney, or bladder.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is pancreatic cancer.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is liver cancer.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is colon cancer.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is thyroid cancer.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is kidney cancer.

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the cancer is bladder cancer.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein ~~measuring~~determining the amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the sample with a probe that binds to the nucleic acid molecule, wherein the probe has at least 20 nucleotides.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the probe has a Tm of at least 65°C or greater for binding to a target nucleic acid molecule.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

72. (Currently amended) The method of claim 61, wherein ~~measuring~~determining the amount of expression of the nucleic acid molecule comprises contacting the ~~samples~~sample with a forward primer, a reverse primer, and utilizing PCR.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the forward primer and reverse primer each comprise at least 20 nucleotides and each have a Tm to a target nucleic acid of about 58°C to 60°C.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the forward primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, and the reverse primer comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 74, further comprising detecting an amplification product with a probe, wherein the probe comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.